

with daily images and videos, Sophie, a French-born New York banker, quickly climbed Cho Oyu and Lhotse in premonsoon, followed by Broad Peak and a brave attempt on K-2, where she managed to get to Camp IV on the south side. This was as high as anyone succeeded on that side of the peak during this difficult year. A bout of food poisoning kept her off Shishipagma, but she recovered sufficiently to summit Manaslu in October. She is continuing with her quest to summit all the remaining 14 Eight Thousanders by 2014, having already climbed Everest a few years before. A lady with boundless energy and a quick smile, Sophie has endeared herself to the whole international climbing community, and we wish her well in her ambitious efforts.

Finally, our 32nd Annual Dinner departed from the usual Himalayan theme to focus on Switzerland and its Alps. On this subject there was no more appropriate a speaker than John Harlin III, editor of this publication for many years. John embarked on a two-year odyssey to circumnavigate Switzerland by its borders, which journey he completed just a few weeks before the Dinner. Since so much of John's personal and family history is intertwined with Switzerland and the Eiger, his presentation had a depth and quality that we had rarely seen. Rounding out the program with a short, very inspirational presentation was Dr. Sherman Bull, who helped guide a group of disabled Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to the summit of Lobuche East in an Erik Weihe-mayer-led expedition. As Sherman pointed out, this was one of the most personally rewarding expeditions he had ever been on. Last but certainly not least, and abetted by some spirited bidding engineered by our auctioneers, Steve Schofield and Dee Byers, the Dinner raised an all-time record sum for the *Journal*.

PHIL ERARD, CHAIR

Southern Appalachian Section. Throughout 2011, the Southern Appalachian Section focused on growing our membership base and producing relevant local club events. The Section's membership exhibited healthy growth across the region. This in turn enabled an expanded offering of local Section events.

Our success in expanding the variety and quantity of local events was due in large part to significant contributions of time and effort by committed members and regional partners such as AAC Partner Fox Mountain Guides and Climbing School. Fox guide Karsten Delap delivered AAC Self-Rescue Classes in May and September in Brevard, North Carolina. These classes were offered free to Club members. Class pricing for non-members was established in a manner that would encourage participants to join the AAC rather than pay higher tuition. Attendees came away with new or enhanced self-rescue skills, and the Club gained new members. Our thanks to Adam Fox and Karsten for their contributions.

The AAC Wilderness First-Aid classes, taught by Danny McCracken in March and November, have become a centerpiece for our annual events schedule. Danny delivered the classes to Red Cross WFA-certification standards with significant customization to focus on climbing accident first response. As with the Self Rescuer classes, a graduated tuition was implemented to encourage participants to join the AAC.

Building on a strong tradition, the 7th Annual Eastern North Carolina AAC Get-Together was held on November 12 in Wake Forest. Over 30 members and their guests gathered at the home of Brigitte Weston and Keith Nangle to socialize with old climbing partners, meet

new ones, and discuss over food and drink how members of the AAC community could help one another achieve our climbing goals. The featured speakers were Tracey Obeda and Danny McCracken, who entertained the audience with slides from their mid-summer adventures in the Alps, and me, who presented slides from the AAC Climber Exchange to Iran, which I helped organize. A huge thanks to Brigitte and Keith for their generous hospitality.

The Section was fortunate to receive two significant AAC grants. The Carolina Climbers' Coalition was awarded \$1,800 for the GIS mapping of Rumbling Bald near Chimney Rock, North Carolina, to support future use planning. Brad Woolf was awarded a Mountaineering Fellowship Grant to support his attempt with Patrick Weaver to put up the first route on the West Face of Alaska's Mt Russell.

DAVID THOENEN, *CHAIR*

Deep South Section. The principal Section activity was the organization by Frank Nederhand and me of the 2011 Cordillera Blanca Environmental Expedition. Frank, John All, Clinton Lewis, and Brett Overcash from this Section and 13 other dedicated engineers and scientists from several other Sections, under the leadership of Ellen Lapham, joined this AAC-sponsored humanitarian and environmentally-based expedition to the high mountains of Peru. Here the various activities and experiments contributed key knowledge to both the local and global communities.

I continued to help coordinate land grants to the Southeastern Climbers Coalition through the Cornerstone Conservation Grants with Ellen Lapham, Chair of the AAC's Conservation Committee.

CHADWICK HAGAN, *CHAIR*