

Club Activities

EDITED BY FREDERICK O. JOHNSON

A.A.C., Blue Ridge Section. This is a new Section of members living in Maryland, portions of North Carolina and Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. In October 1976 at an informal meeting in Washington D.C. members asked the Board of Directors to approve the Section and on 19 January 1977 we held our first meeting. Since then we have met three times to discuss and act on such Club issues as membership and nominating procedures, local access to climbing areas, and to enjoy various slide programs on expedition climbing. During the year members climbed in the Rocky Mountains of Canada and the U.S., on Denali (McKinley), Grand Tetons, Yosemite, the Alps of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, in the Garhwal Himalaya and in the Eastern U.S.

JOE H. WAGNER, *Chairman*

A.A.C., Cascade Section. The Section began the year with the "First Annual Cascade Section Bash" on January 29. The change from a sit-down dinner to a buffet was well received, and we had almost 300 members and guests. The "Bash" went over so well we are planning another in January 1978. Chris Chandler showed his climb of Everest, and our Section's annual meeting and dinner was considered a great success. On March 2 we co-sponsored, with the Swallow's Nest, a local mountaineering store, and the University of Washington Climbing Club, Martin Boyson with his show "Everest—the Southwest Face." At a Section meeting on March 11, Alex Bertulis discussed the AAC climbers trip to Russia in 1976, and showed some of his slides.

On May 15 the Russian climbers arrived in the U. S. for 45 days, to climb on McKinley and, as it turned out, in our North Cascades. AAC member Mike Helms and Riley Moss accompanied them on McKinley. Alex Bertulis acted as host in Washington State, and with Mark Shielding, showed the Russians the Northern Pickets. Chuck Kroger climbed Liberty Bell with them.

In the interim, on April 11 we entertained Professor Noel Odell with a dinner at a local restaurant, where he was able to talk with Unsoeld, Hornbein, Emerson and Chandler, all Everest people themselves. Professor Odell spoke to the Section after dinner, giving us much interesting information on the early attempts at Everest and showing some rare old pictures.

When the Russian climbers had completed their 45 days of climbing,

we had a reception for them the evening they were to fly home. We were able to see some of their pictures and show some of ours, and give them a relaxing evening talking over their trip. It was at this reception that the Russian leader invited the AAC to select six climbers to tour the Russian climbing areas again in 1978.

Then we successfully hosted the AAC Board of Directors at the Mountaineer clubroom September 16-17, with a number of section members attending both the meetings and the reception. On October 18 the section had its last meeting for the year, with Bill Sumner discussing "Winter Ice Climbing in the Northwest—How and Where?"

HOWARD STANSBURY

A.A.C., Southern California Section. Two meetings and a program for the public were held by this Section in the first half of 1977. On January 27, Bob Kamps presented a program of his climbs during the past twenty years, including hundreds of new routes from Stoney Point and Yosemite in California to the Black Hills in South Dakota. Kamps is the author of *A Climber's Guide to the Needles in the Black Hills of South Dakota*, an American Alpine Club publication.

The Section's most ambitious project, and one which produced a profit, was the sponsorship of a double showing in downtown Los Angeles of the film *Everest—The Hardest Way Up*. A.A.C. Secretary Ted Vaill made most of the arrangements, assisted by Section officers Pete White and Mike Sherrick and by other local members. Shortly before the show, news was received that the speaker Dougal Haston had been killed in Switzerland. Vaill made the necessary arrangements with immigration officials to permit the last-minute substitution of Martin Boysen as speaker.

On May 14 the Section met in honor of the directors, who had held their spring meeting at the Idyllwild Town Hall that day. President James F. Henriot spoke to those present. Chuck Wilts, author of *A Climber's Guide to Tahquitz and Suicide Rocks*, published by the A.A.C., showed slides and told stories about the olden days of climbing at Tahquitz, going back to the mid-1930's when the first routes were pioneered. On the following day, several Board members, undeterred by the late snowfall, sampled Tahquitz granite.

After this spurt of activity, the Section itself returned to a state of dormancy for the rest of 1977—but many of its members climbed in numerous and far-flung mountain ranges.

RUTH DYAR MENDENHALL

Alpine Club of Canada. The Alpine Club of Canada experienced a very busy and rewarding year in 1977. The usual summer and winter activities took place. Some of these activities occurred in new areas,