

ican Women's Expedition in 1978. The net proceeds of such programs are used to finance a generous contribution to the Club's Mountaineering Fellowship fund. This year the section also made a significant donation to the Mohonk Trust to aid the Trust in repulsing a legal threat to climbing in the Shawangunks. Our annual reception and dinner was the largest social gathering of the section in recent years.

JOHN THACKRAY, *Chairman*

*A.A.C., Oregon Section.* In addition to the usual dinner meetings, the Section's activities were concentrated in four areas. Once again Jim Angell did an excellent job in putting out the newsletter, which keeps our members, plus many national members and friends, in touch with the Section and informed of its activities.

RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) and the potential new wilderness areas which these roadless areas represent were of much concern to the Section. Nick Dodge and Jim Angell burned many hours of midnight oil analyzing RARE II and following through with detailed information to our members as to what it really says and proposes to do.

Smith Rock State Park, the best rock climbing area in Oregon, was again the Section's pet project. After more than five years of meetings with the State and much individual effort by members and non-members, we have succeeded in obtaining approval of a greatly needed overnight camping area within the park. At our November meeting, Jerry Lucus of the State Park Bureau, was given the "Friend of the Oregon Section Award" for his understanding and help in achieving our goals for Smith Rock. The A.A.C. Smith Rock Invitational Work Day was held March 31. Over 45 persons showed up with tools and willing hands to stem the tide of erosion, caused by so many making their own personal trails. Improvement of the most logical trail system and blockage of unneeded trails will, it is hoped, help solve the problem. This event will be held annually on the last Saturday in March.

Finally, the Section was host to the Club's 78th Annual Meeting with the Annual Dinner and Program, held at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood under the capable chairmanship of Chuck Adams. Judging from comments of those in attendance, we had a most successful and entertaining meeting. A more detailed description of the meeting appears elsewhere in this *Journal*.

GARY KIRK, *Chairman*

*A.A.C., Sierra Nevada Section.* The year 1979 was an active one for our section's 196 members. Sixteen section-sponsored events were held, including three traditional section meetings, seven organizational

meetings, three outings, one service project, one new-membership program, and a national directors' meeting.

The section meetings were family-style gatherings with over 70 members at each meeting. The winter meeting was in Palo Alto at the home of Nick and Betsy Clinch. The program featured Dick Irvin's narration of his recent ascent of Mount St. Elias. The section met in June at the home of Gus and Emily Benner. In addition to a fine steak dinner, Marge Farquhar, Jules Eichorn, Lewis Clark, Hermann Ulrichs, Eleanor Bartlett, and Raffi Bedayn entertained the gathering with tales of their early climbing adventures in the Sierra and Canada. In October we met at the Orinda home of Raffi and Barbara Bedayn, and the program included slides of the summer activities of many of the members. These enjoyable meetings raise money for the section's projects. Business announcements are brief, as organizational details are handled in monthly meetings attended by about 10 members.

Money raised at the meetings helped to make possible three outings and two service projects. In February Brock Wagstaff led 12 ice climbers to Lee Vining Canyon and June Lake on the east side of the Sierra. Thanks to Brock, we learned about waterfall ice climbing without injury. In March Gene and Betsy White led a group of 40 nordic ski mountaineers of all ages on the ascent and descent of Mount Tallac and Rubicon Peak overlooking Lake Tahoe. In July Tom Higgins guided 15 of the chosen few to climb and enjoy themselves at a climbing area near Yosemite called "The Balls." These trips enable members to become better acquainted with one another in mountain activities. At least one expedition which climbed four peaks in Peru was a direct result of such activity.

Our service project, led by Greg Donaldson in September, was a clean-up of the base of the northwest face of Half Dome in Yosemite. Seventeen large trash bags were filled and later removed by the Park Service, thanks to Hal Grover and John Dill of the Yosemite Search and Rescue Group. This trip was especially satisfying as it was the result of a section-sponsored program moderated by Chris Jones during the April meeting of the Club's directors in Yosemite. At the meeting a number of issues were discussed with Greg Donaldson, John Dill, President Jim Henriot, and Park Superintendent Les Arnberger on the panel. Club members and Park Service officials agreed to begin working to solve problems in which both are concerned, such as litter at the base of climbs. Confirming Raffi Bedayn's previous efforts, the section is now advertising that problems can be tackled through joint efforts and hopes to contact other government agencies with similar concerns.

Another successful event was our new-membership program, which was held at the College of Marin in March. Thanks to Bruce McCubbrey and Mary Strudwick, over 175 persons came to see slides of K2, Latok, and Annapurna, narrated respectively by Lou Reichardt, George Lowe,

and Irene Beardsley. It was an opportunity for the Section to make known the Club's membership requirements and to inform the interested public of the nature of the A.A.C., its services, and activities.

Other accomplishments by our members involved the Club's response to the Yosemite Masterplan prepared by Armando Menocal and his committee; a section survey on honorary membership conducted by Tom Higgins; and an endowment drive "second effort" by Leigh Ortenburger, which has brought our Section's participation of members to 70%. Extraordinary personal contributions to the Section's activities were made by Mary Strudwick, Gene and Betsy White, and Bev Belanger, as well as many relatives and friends of members who gave freely of their time and talent when needed.

As for the year's climbing report, our members were active on every continent except Antarctica. At the annual dinner in Portland, Oregon, members appeared as participants in every climb highlighted in the slide programs.

On a sadder note, the Section regrets the loss of its active members and good friends, Margaret Young, Toby O'Brien, Phil Bettler, and Rick Mosher.

R.D. CAUGHRON, *Chairman*

*A.A.C., Southern California Section.* The Section held two official meetings during the year. Our main program has been the establishment of the Arkel Erb Memorial Library. Club members helped prepare and move the books to the Los Angeles County Library at Malibu, where the library staff is processing them. The Erb Library will be a valuable addition to mountaineering literature on the West Coast.

Our members have been particularly concerned about the Forest Service's proposed restrictions on climbing at Tahquitz Rock. Chairman Pete White had several talks with the Forest Service and presented our philosophy of opposing all restrictions on climbing. His written comments were included in the evaluation of the master plan proposed for the area.

A group of former instructors of the Sierra Club's basic mountaineering training course suggested to the Section that the A.A.C. operate a mountain training program. After considerable discussion among our members and a presentation to the Club's Board of Directors, it was decided that the Club should not sponsor or operate a training program.

The fate of our local climbing practice area, Stoney Point, remains uncertain. It is under pressure by land developers, and the city of Los Angeles is considering acquiring it for a park. The city would be concerned about accident liability if climbing were allowed there. Ted Vaill and others are presenting the position to the city that it would not be liable for climbing accidents or injuries sustained at Stoney Point.