

Club Activities

EDITED BY FREDERICK O. JOHNSON

A.A.C., Alaska Section. 1984 was another fine year for our Section. It began with a good season of winter mountaineering, highlighted by the Second Annual Ice-Climbing Festival in Valdez. The rate of first ascents of waterfalls slowed somewhat from last year as climbers repeated known routes and took advantage of excellent skiing conditions. Other winter activity included a Section-sponsored ice-climbing clinic, attempts on Denali and Mount Huntington, and the first winter ascent of Mount Fairweather via the west ridge. Two other significant expeditions with our members were made: Makalu west pillar and Biafo Tower in the Karakoram. Both of these climbs are described elsewhere in this *Journal*.

The Alaska Section has been developing at an impressive rate during the last three years, with membership and services all on the rise. The Section publishes a newsletter four times a year, holds regional meetings, and organizes other social activities. A published directory which included member information, mountain reference and several out-of-print climbing articles was very popular at both the local and national levels. Section turtleneck shirts were also introduced as a fund raiser.

On October 6 the annual meeting of the Section was held in Anchorage. This meeting, accompanied by slide programs, was our best ever, with over 300 people in attendance.

STEVE DAVIS, *Chairman*

A.A.C., Blue Ridge Section. This small Section grew in membership during the year. Various members climbed in the Pamirs, the Alps, and the Canadian Rockies. On the home front the Section worked on the rehabilitation of Carde-rock, our most used local climbing area, and represented the Club's Conservation Committee at hearings before the Forest Service to urge protection of the Menagerie area in Oregon. Evening programs included a showing of the much honored film, *Tragedy on the Eiger North Face*, at the German Embassy, and an appearance by Michail Monastyrski of the Soviet Mountaineering Federation with a film of the Soviet climb of Mount Everest in 1982.

GEORGE R. MERRIAM, *Chairman*

A.A.C., New York Section. In retrospect 1984 was perhaps the busiest year in the history of the New York Section. Members received invitations to more than a dozen events, ranging from slide shows to climbing outings to barbecues

and the traditional annual dinner. Two events in particular stand out, a very successful June barbecue and field day hosted by Olaf and Gitta Sööt at their home in Greenwich and the Section's annual black-tie dinner at Manhattan's Union Club. The latter has become a fixture on the Union Club's calendar, attracting guests from around the country, and has also become an important fund-raising vehicle. An overflowing gathering of 160 members and guests were on hand to hear newly appointed Disney president Frank Wells discuss the "Seven Summits Odyssey," the attempt he and partner Dick Bass made to become the first to reach the highest points on all seven continents. Guests were also treated to a Tibetan buffet, a members' photographic exhibit featuring the work of Olaf Sööt, James Billipp, Peter Renz and Fred Selby, and an array of impressive door prizes contributed by generous sponsors. Special thanks go to committee members James Billipp, Priscilla Briggs, John Bruno, Jeanne-Marie Gilbert and Peter Wood for helping to make the evening an artistic as well as a financial success. The dinner netted a record \$5675 for the Clubhouse Improvement Fund and set a new standard for conviviality and good fellowship that will be hard to match.

In 1985 the Section looks forward to hosting the Club's Annual Meeting, which will once again rotate back to the New York area. As of year end, Section membership stood at 171, up 25 since the 1982 edition of the Membership Handbook. Members from other Sections interested in being placed on the New York mailing list should write to New York Section, A.A.C., Box 32, 27 W. 44th Street, New York, New York 10036.

PHILIP ERARD, *Chairman*

A.A.C., Sierra Nevada Section. The last two years have seen a continuation of the social events that have become traditional activities for many Section members, as well as an increased involvement in several climbing area problems. 1983 began with the winter program, which featured Jim Bridwell's slide show of his 1982 winter ascent of Pumori in Nepal, Kichatna Spire, and the East Face of the Moose's Tooth. In March members met for the annual Spring Ski and Soak, an event which Jerry Bock has made into an outdoor culinary art form, with the roasting of an entire lamb over an open fire. Climbing outings included gatherings in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Lover's Leap. In the fall the Section held its first banquet, with guest speaker Don Whillans providing an entertaining and humorous program, which featured the classic ascent of the South Face of Annapurna. The Section also took this occasion to honor two of its most eminent members, Barbara Bedayan and Marjory Farquhar.

In 1984 there were the usual spring and fall meetings, wine and cheese affairs in which a little business and a lot of socializing generally take place. The fall meeting has traditionally been a time for members to catch up on the summer climbing activities of their friends and to show a sampling of their slides. This year's fall meeting was hosted by Chris and Sharon Jones, at which Chris was elected to serve as Section chairman, taking over from Brock Wagstaff.