

*AAC, Rocky Mountain Section.* A result of a survey of our members has been the breakup of the section into more manageable units. The Rocky Mountain Section was the largest section in the AAC, both in terms of members and geography. Breaking up the section will allow more members to participate in regional activities and get involved at the local level. The idea of breaking up the section has been circulating for some time. Finally, with a core of interested members and the approval of the Board of Directors in December, 1996, it is now a reality.

The Northern Rockies Section consists of Montana, Idaho and Utah, while the Central Rockies Section consists of Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. The Northern Section will be headed by Doug Colwell in Boise and the Central Section by Greg Sievers in Estes Park.

CHARLEY MACE, *Outgoing Section Chair*

*AAC, Oregon Section.* The Oregon Section has been infused with some new members and great input. Tom Thrall continues to work on various conservation projects for the upcoming year. Tom Thrall, Tom Bennett and I recently decided to mix a little fun with goodwill for the U.S. Forest Service. In recent years the Forest Service has monitored surface water quality (annually) for human contamination, along the popular South Climb route on Mt. Adams. An offer by the AAC to climb the mountain to collect the samples in August was gratefully accepted. After an exhilarating east-side glacial ascent under clear skies, the sampling sites were located on the descent in whiteout conditions as the weather rapidly deteriorated. The samples were then analyzed by the State Lab for coliform bacteria. The Forest Service has expressed interest in biannual sampling, beginning in 1997.

There was an AAC-organized cleanup of Rocky Butte in July. The road and upper butte gets trashed by sight-seers and cruisers. It seems like each year a cleanup will need to take place to take care to maintain a quality bouldering and climbing area.

Ian Wade and I have worked on an AAC Oregon Section library for research of historical information. Bill Hackett's library has been a good one for private research. Section member Tom Bennett has a library of polar research and exploration for use. Barbara Bower is supplying the Oregon Section Library a full collection of the Himalayan Bulletin.

Oregon Section members Gary Beyl, Tom Bennett and I put together a unique set of framed 8"x 10" photographs of the 1910 C. E. Rusk expedition on McKinley. C. E. Rusk's was the first expedition to disprove Frederick Cook's claim to the summit of Mt. McKinley. Many of these photographs, from lantern slides of Bilmore Brown and C. E. Rusk, have never been printed.

Oregon Section member Jeff Alzner and Fred Zeil summited on Broad Peak with their Canadian friends. It was a great summit experience.

Closer to home, the Madrone Wall, an excellent climbing area with 120-plus routes, is still threatened by the county, which is poised to reopen it as a gravel pit. Blasting holes have been drilled into the 150-foot cliff base.

BOB MCGOWN

*The California Mountaineering Club.* With the last issue of our newsletter, the California Mountaineering Club entered its eighth year. Membership this year exceeded the 300 mark.

This year saw the tragic death of our president, R. Dave Dykeman, who died while leading a club trip to Devils Crag in the Sierra Nevada. Dave was instrumental in the founding of the club and continued to be one of our most active leaders. He will be sorely missed by us all.

Our climbing schedule this year continued to include a variety of Sierra climbs, desert peaks,