

Alison Hargreave's last climb on K2 and a subsequent visit by her family to base camp. The event helped benefit the *American Alpine Journal*.

In September, repeating a popular event held a few years before, Olaf Soot hosted a section cocktail party and barbecue at his home in Greenwich, Connecticut. On hand were demonstrations of the latest developments in portable satellite telephone as well as global positioning system technology.

Finally, in October, the section hosted its 18th Annual Dinner featuring Kurt Diemberger, the legendary Himalayan climber, as the special guest. Kurt's memorable show was on "K2: Mountain of Dreams and Destiny." A short talk was also given by Stephen Koch on his attempt to be the first person to snowboard all seven summits. The black-tie event raised more than \$5,000 for the new clubhouse in Golden. At the Dinner, 17 new members, including four women, were introduced to the membership.

On the expedition front, section member William Rom, M.D., participated in an ascent of Mount Geladaintong (6621m) in Tibet's remote Kun Lun Range, the source of the Yangtze River. Finally, as of December, a group of 14 section members and their guests were busy planning a trekking and climbing expedition to New Zealand, details of which will appear in next year's *Journal*.

All in all, 1997 was a vintage year in every respect. Thanks to numerous volunteers, the section was able to do good and have fun.

PHILIP ERARD, *Chairman*

AAC, New England Section. The year began with our second Annual Dinner. Almost 90 New Englanders gathered once again to dress up, dine, socialize and travel back in time to vast and faraway mountains. Craigen Bowen assembled a graceful display of the stunning 19th century mountain photographs of Vittorio Sella, and Dick Tucker fielded a video of two of Kenneth Henderson's now-famous climbing films of the 1930s: Pinnacle Gully in winter and the Whitney-Gilman ridge on Cannon Cliff.

Section chair Barry Rugo opened the dinner program and then introduced Jed Williamson, who issued a call to support the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, Colorado. Festivities included the introduction of new members, drawings for Steve Weitzler's great door prizes, and the usual recognition of AAC notables in attendance: Bob and Gail Bates, Kenneth Henderson, Dr. Henry Kendall, Sam Streibert, Rick Wilcox and John Reppy among them.

After dinner, our eloquent guide, Mark Richey, transported us to India, where he led us "Fast and Light" on a second ascent of the East Pillar of Shivling with his partner, John Bouchard. Before evening's end, we had auctioned off an "historic jacket" (donated by Ann Carter, once owned by Henry Hall and worn by Ad), a sweeping Brad Washburn aerial of Huntington Ravine and a famed Sella print. The dinner proceeds have gone into the preservation of the motion pictures taken in the 1930s by Kenneth Henderson.

In April, we explored Nevada's Red Rocks with Al Stebbins, Fran Bennett, Dick Tucker and Pat Smith under the spectacular clear air display of Hale-Bopp during the early evening camping hours. Among the longer routes done: Tunnel Vision, Frogland, Olive Oil and Dark Shadows. The summer saw various members in Switzerland, the Tetons, British Columbia, the Karakoram and "just out west" like Al Stebbins, who visited his favorites: City of Rocks, Smith Rocks and Eldorado Canyon.

Paul Dale and Jim Van Buren shuttled back and forth between France and Switzerland to visit the Verdon Gorge at Orpierre, to climb the Dufourspitz of Monte Rosa via the West Ridge above Zermatt and to enjoy the Morgins route on the Saleve.

Dave Oka and Yuki Fujita concentrated efforts in Chamonix, where, when the conditions higher up frowned upon them, they enjoyed rock routes near d'Envers des Aiguilles. They initiated the Chere Couloir and traversed from the Midi high station to the Aiguille Plan. A week or so later, Bill Atkinson arrived to do what could be safely climbed alone: the Petite Aiguille Verte and the Aiguille du Tour from Chamonix and the Breithorn from Zermatt. In Chamonix Bill encountered our own Alain Comeau, who was there for two weeks to guide his carefully attended clients on such routes as the Arête des Cosmiques and Il Gran Paradiso. Dick Tucker and Pat Smith chose Switzerland, climbing on the Tour d'Ai in Leysin and reaching the tops of the Freudenthorn and the Blumisalp and summits in Les Diablerets in the Bernese Oberland. Then, in the Oberengadine, they joined Bill Atkinson to climb the Piz Palu Ostgipfel—with a mini-crevasse rescue on the descent.

In the Bugaboos, Mark Bowen and Beverly Boynton, after climbing the other spires, completed the Beckey-Chouinard route on South Howser Tower, chopping the rappel anchors out of the ice on their descent. Mark also traveled to Bolivia, where, for Natural History, he spent several days atop 21,500-foot Nevado Sajama interviewing Lonnie Thompson, the leader of an Ohio State University paleoclimatological expedition that was taking summit ice cores from Bolivia's highest peak.

Eric Engberg and Nancy Savickas engaged themselves in Canada. Eric did the Cardiac Arête on the Grand Sentinel and the East Ridge of Mount Temple. Nancy climbed mounts Edith Cavell and Athabasca, following up with a fall foray to Yosemite Valley for Snake Dike on Half Dome.

Barry Rugo, Tom Nonis, Mark Richey and John Bouchard returned to the Karakoram, where they made significant progress in attempts on Baintha Brakk and Latok I, but were deterred by unseasonably bad weather and unexpected objective danger.

BILL ATKINSON, *Chairman*

Mountaineering Club of Alaska. The club's 1997 climbing activities included the following: On April 4, Elena Hinds, Cory Hinds and Jim Francis summited Mount Marcus Baker (13,176') in the Chugach Mountains via the original (1938) Washburn route, the Northeast Ridge.

On May 4, Carlos Buhler and Charlie Sassara made the third ascent of University Peak in the Wrangell Mountains. At 8,500 feet, the east face was the tallest unexplored and unclimbed face in the range. Their seven-day alpine ascent of this extremely technical face was tentatively rated Alaska Grade VI-. During April 3-15, Kirk Towner, Paul Barry and Dave Hart made the third ascent of Mount Tressider (13,315') via the northern slopes (Alaska Grade I); the first ascent of Peak 12,610 (Mount Pandora), approaching its west ridge from the north (Alaska Grade II); and a one-day ski ascent of Mount Churchill (15,638') up its southeast slope (Alaska Grade I). Harry Hunt, Barry and Hart made the first ascent of Mount Riggs (11,738') via the south-southeast ridge (Alaska Grade IV-).

From May 4-30, Mark Flannum, Brad Gessner, Antonia Sparrow and David Harrison made a traverse from Kantishna to Kahiltna Base Camp, summiting Denali May 26. Walking from Kantishna to McGonagall Pass to get onto the Muldrow Glacier, they ascended Karsten's Ridge, then spent six days in a snow cave at the base of Browne's Tower awaiting better weather. They then traveled up the Harper Glacier and climbed the East Ridge to Denali's South Summit (20,320'), descending the West Ridge to Denali Pass and down the Harper Glacier to high camp at 16,800 feet. The next day they re-ascended Denali Pass and descended the West Buttress route to Kahiltna Base Camp. Bob Hempstead, Dawn Groth and Dave Hart climbed Mount Sanford (16,237') in the Wrangell Mountains May 15-25. Between May