

management and have provided numerous written comments to the agency, requesting a better management approach. A request to TPW to open a climbing area in McKinney Falls State Park near Austin has, so far, been received favorably by the park manager and the new parks director. The area is a limestone outcrop that will support a few climbers at one time with bouldering activities. Other climbing areas are being developed in the state but are not yet ready for open access due to unresolved issues with the landowner.

The Section continued to support the trailbuilding effort at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area in Texas with monthly volunteer trailbuilding days held throughout the year. Participation has been good, and new areas of construction began this year, including the Blue Trail to the News Wall. To date, more than 200 tons of rock have been transported to the park and moved by wheelbarrow for building critical retaining walls, water breaks and trail sections. Funding for this effort was obtained through grants from the AAC Conservation Committee. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who have spent long hours on this project.

ANDY JONES, *Chair*

*AAC, New York Section.* As the millennium approached, the New York Section could look back on 25 years of continued growth and a strong tradition of volunteerism and financial support on behalf of Club causes. Now numbering more than 600 members—a 50 percent increase in just the last five years—the Section busies itself with a series of climbing and social events designed to bring together its varied and diversified membership.

Perhaps best known to the outside world is the Annual Section Dinner, a gala black-tie fundraiser which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year. Special guests Brad and Barbara Washburn, pioneer Alaskan climbers and extraordinary storytellers, kept the capacity audience of 160 members and guests, some from as far away as Oregon and Washington, in thrall as they told of their various adventures spanning back over 60 years. Another octogenarian, Gerry Bloch, recounted his recent 11-day ascent of El Capitan's formidable *Aquarian Wall*, thereby decisively breaking his own age record, one that will undoubtedly stand for a long time to come. Youth was served as well. Among the record 20 new members initiated into the Section that night were the first father-and-son pair, Irving Oppenheim and his son, Dan, a precocious 17-year-old who has an El Capitan solo as part of his climbing resume. The Dinner benefited *The American Alpine Journal* and the AAC Library Acquisition Fund.

Earlier in April, the Section had the honor and pleasure of welcoming Fosco Maraini, the Italian author, scholar, photographer and pioneer climber. At a Section-hosted dinner, Fosco told of his travels to Tibet both before and immediately after World War II as well as his climbs in the 1950s in the Hindu Kush and Karakoram. There he met and became good friends with former AAC President Nick Clinch, and Clinch journeyed from California to meet with Fosco once again. The dinner was part of a three-day, non-stop series of events that included a slide show and gallery opening in Manhattan. Fosco and his wife Meiko will be long remembered here for their grace and charm.

In May, the Club once again co-sponsored Alpinfilm, the New York International Mountain Film Festival, which celebrated its tenth anniversary. The Festival is a juried competition with cash prizes to winning filmmakers. The Rolex Award for the Best Film of the Festival went to AAC member and one-time New Yorker Ken Bailey for his powerful *Ode to Avalanche*, set to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Other winners were *Escoba de Dios* ("The Broom of God") and *War and Poetry*, a John Wilcox film starring Todd Skinner and friends in Greenland. The film premiered that night at the Festival. Before the screenings, Section members, filmmakers and guests mingled at a pre-theater reception and dinner at a nearby restaurant. Finally, on the following day, well-known author David Roberts presented a fascinating slide show on the Telem people of Mali, who may have been pre-history's first and finest climbers. June saw the Section convene once again at its historic haunts, the Ausable Club in Keene Valley, New York, for a weekend of

climbing, hiking and canoeing in the heart of the Adirondack High Peaks. Earlier in January, members had climbed many of the same routes but with ice axes and crampons. These Adirondack Outings, both winter and summer, always attract capacity throngs and, in a pristine setting, are a welcome change of pace from the oft-crowded local routes.

Because the Gunks still remain the primary venue for local climbers, the Section helped the Mohonk Preserve fund a series of important initiatives at the local cliffs, including creating some badly needed new rappel stations and rebuilding some eroded access trails. These were funded in part by grants from the Club's Lyman Spitzer Fund.

Finally, tribute should be paid to Vaclav (Vic) Benes, our webmaster, for creating a lively, entertaining, and newsworthy Section web site, enhanced with superb pictorials and graphics. Among the new features introduced this year is an interactive slide show. So to keep abreast of what's going on in the Big Apple, do log on to <http://nys.alpineclub.org>.

PHILIP ERARD, *Chair*

*AAC, New England Section.* Chris Dame and friends began 1999 by attaining the summit of Chile's El Novado Juncal (6110m) for the first American ascent. In June, Dave and Debbie Duncanson topped out on Denali via the West Buttress.

Al Hospers and Yuki Fujita started their year at the Alpine Club of Canada's Cranmore, BC, facility, where they enjoyed many routes, among them *Kitty Hawk* and climbs on the Weeping Wall. They returned in the summer to climb Mount Athabasca.

Jim McCarthy, our special guest for our Fourth Annual Dinner, gave a 50-year reminiscence that ranged from the 'Gunk days of Wiessner, Kraus and Vulgarian yore to today's world of dynos and flashes. Our reception exhibit comprised the "Magical Snowcolors" of AAC Alaskan guide and water colorist John Svenson.

The Harvard Mountaineering Club selected Barry Rugo as guest speaker for their spring dinner. In April, various souls among us went West to climb at Red Rocks, Joshua Tree and Zion.

At our second Northcountry "Basecamp" at Jim Ansara's in North Conway, NH, we screened three of Ken Henderson's newly restored films of 1930s ice and rock climbing, as we did again in the fall for a Connecticut "Camp I" group organized by Walt Hampton and Pauline Eng. In the fall, Ken Henderson retired from our midst to his daughter's realm in Hanover, NH.

Paul Dale trekked to the top of Pokalde (5800m) in the Nepal Himalaya. Bob Wadja returned from France, having visited Verdon Gorge, La Meije (3982m) in the Haute Dauphine, and later the summits of La Tour Ronde and Mont Blanc in Chamonix. Also in the Dauphine, Bill Atkinson and Nancy Savickas took a few days off to do Aiguille Dibona (3100m) from the Soreiller Hut, where we (almost) encountered Isabelle Bey on the same mission.

In 1999, Section membership increased from about 400 to 480, a gain of 20 percent, which we find gratifying but for which we are reluctant to claim any credit.

BILL ATKINSON, *Chair*; and NANCY SAVICKAS, *Vice-Chair*

*Mountaineering Club of Alaska.* In February, Mark Miraglia and Dolly Lefever climbed the Northeast Ridge of Mt. Tasman in New Zealand. Dolly's climb is thought to be the first ascent of this peak by someone with artificial hips. Meanwhile in Alaska, Cory Hinds and Richard Baranow made the first ascent of *Nigelina*, a 230-foot WI4+ ice climb in Eagle River (Chugach Mountains). Two weeks later, Carl Oswald, Richard Baranow and Wendy Sanem completed its previously unclimbed twin, *Luther's Delight* (WI4+, 230').

In April, a strong team including David Hart, Paul Barry, Jim McDonough, Shawn O'Donnell and Kirk Towner made multiple ascents in the Canadian St. Elias Range. The following peaks were climbed: Mt. Slaggard (15,557'), Mt. Macaulay (15,387'), Southeast Macaulay (14,501') and