

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

Northwest Steele (13,845'). Richard Baranow, Wendy Sanem, Paul Templeton, Fred West and Tim Griffin summited Mt. Marcus Baker (13,176') in the Chugach Mountains via the Northeast Ridge. Baranow, Sanem and West skied up the Matanuska Glacier, summited, then skied out the Marcus Baker and Knik glaciers.

In May, David Hart, Dawn Groth, Cory Hinds, Elena Hinds, Wayne Todd, Kathy Still and Ben Still went ski touring on the upper Nabesna Glacier in the Alaskan Wrangell Mountains near Mt. Blackburn. Several 4,000-foot ski descents were made. Two strong teams summited the Moose's Tooth via the *Ham and Eggs* route (WI4 5.7). Harry Hunt and Peter Haeussler summited in May, and David Hart and Brad Gessner summited in June (for further information on these climbs, see *Climbs and Expeditions: Alaska*).

In July, David Hart, Bryan Carey and Ron Rickman visited Bolivia's Cordillera Real and climbed Huayana Potosi, Pequeño Alpamayo, Ilusion, and Blanca. In October, David Hart and Kurt Bauer visited the Nepal Himalaya and climbed the South Ridge of Baruntse (23,400').

The club's training activities included general mountaineering, winter camping, snow and ice climbing, glacier travel and crevasse rescue, winter camping and knots.

Community involvement activities included the hiker/climber sign project and public-use cabin construction. The joint MCA/AAC Alaska Section Climber/Hiker Sign Project was originally started in 1998. Its purpose was to provide a positive message to hikers/climbers with regard to their activities on public lands and to show the general public that there is a group of responsible outdoor recreationalists who care about their impact on other user groups. Funding was provided by grants from the AAC and REI. This project was completed in spring of 1999 when signs were installed at various rock/ice climbing areas and popular trailheads.

The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and MCA, in collaboration with the AAC, sponsored the construction of a public use cabin in the Chugach State Park. Architectural work was provided on a pro bono basis; the Club supplied a work force of skilled volunteers and materials were purchased with funds obtained from grants and donations. The cabin is conveniently located in a prime ice climbing area.

CORY HINDS, *Secretary*

*The Mountaineers.* The Mountaineers' Seattle climbing program, under the leadership of Ron Eng, continues to maintain a long-standing focus on alpine climbing in the Pacific Northwest. However, the program has continued to expand significantly. In addition to the Basic and Intermediate Climbing courses, which are its foundation and continue to draw high demand, the climbing program now offers the Waterfall Ice Climbing Course. This course, which includes winter trips to the waterfall ice climbing areas of Colorado, British Columbia and Alberta, is designed for the experienced alpinist and represents a significant expansion of the traditional curricular and geographic scopes.

The program also continues to offer a variety of climbing seminars designed to foster further development of the climbing course graduates' technical skills. Seminar offerings range from basic climbing skills (e.g., friction climbing and risk assessment) to "Advanced Climbing Experience" seminars (e.g., aid climbing and planning an expedition to Denali). In addition to numerous climbs of mountains in the Pacific Northwest, the program also sponsored trips to Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, British Columbia and Alberta.

Program administration includes the increasing use of electronic technology. A growing number of climb leaders are taking advantage of the climb leader web page trip registration system to schedule trips. More and more information is being incorporated on the climbing program general web page. The climbing program web page URL is <http://www.eskimo.com/~pc22/CC/cc.html>.

Mountaineers Books published a number of books in 1999, among them *The Totem Pole*, by Paul Pritchard, Mark Twight's *Extreme Alpinism* and *A Life on the Edge: Memoirs of Everest and Beyond*, by Big Jim Whittaker. We also pulled off a minor publishing miracle in late September