

Denver. Jim Bridwell was honored as co-recipient, with Annie Whitehouse, of the Robert and Miriam Underhill Award. And long-time UIAA delegate Eliza Moran was awarded the Angelo Heilprin Award. These award winners reflect our Section's ongoing commitment to excellence and hard work for the world's climbing community.

We rang out the year with a fun and vibrant Section meeting at the showplace home of one of the Section's high-tech wizards, Steve Spurrier. Steve Schneider took over the Chairmanship from Lynn Bamford and announced a slew of events planned for 2001. Sierra Nevadans look forward to another year of opportunities to have fun and help the climbing community.

LINDA McMILLAN

The Arizona Mountaineering Club. During the year 2000, the Arizona Mountaineering Club's membership base reached 596. The club continued its traditional role as trainer of local rock climbers, as well as building its base in broader alpine pursuits. The AzMC has had a reputation for holding rock climbing schools in which it focuses on safety and self-rescue. This year, the AzMC graduated 83 students through its Basic Rock Climbing School, 55 climbers through its Anchors and Advanced Rope Safety School, and 33 potential leaders through Lead School. A haven of hard-pulling sport climbers, the AzMC offered numerous outings to local crags as well.

Reflecting its growing numbers and the increasing attraction of mountaineering among its current and potential membership base, the AzMC also offered a Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue seminar, and, through a professional guide service in Durango, Colorado, the AzMC offered training in basic and multipitch ice climbing to 29 students.

In 2000, club members traveled to Canada, Alaska, Europe, South America, and Asia in mountaineering climbs and expeditions. While most of the trips were private, they provided an opportunity for club members to gain alpine experience that can be brought back and incorporated within future club activities.

The club also met members' needs and requests by sponsoring seminars and activities on topics ranging from map and compass to backcountry medicine to rock-climbing photography to trail building. In view of the continued expansion of its activities, the club continues to weigh risk-management considerations with the potential benefits of those activities.

Access issues continue throughout the state, as development encroaches the close-in crags. Near Phoenix, the north McDowell's, including Pinnacle Peak, continue to be the center of controversy, though it appears that the long-awaited reopening of Pinnacle Peak for climbing is foreseeable, due to the resolution of an acquisition plan related to land for parking.

ERIK FILSINGER, *President*

AAC, Central Rockies Section. The Central Rockies Section was a sponsor of the Ouray Ice Festival 2000, held on January 14-16. We donated \$300 to the Ice Park for their annual efforts of ice farming, safety, and maintenance. The crowd seemed as large as last year with more corporate support and vendors showing their wares. The conditions were a balmy 40 degrees, and the ice was running, wet, and plastic. It made for an enjoyable outing for those not into arctic conditions. Most of the natural ice in the surrounding hills was unavailable or unsafe. The CRS wishes to be progressive and in touch with many local events and hopes that these types of outings will encourage members to attend and help out.

The Section held its annual banquet/fundraiser on April 29 in Boulder at the Angel Pines Country Club. Ninety people attended and received party favors, participated in both a live and

silent auction, and enjoyed a great Corey Rich slide program hosted by Miles Smart. The affair displayed a portion of the AAJ Photographic Collection, large color glossies from last year's *Journal*. The evening slide program, entitled "The Tortoise and The Hare," captured the ascent of El Capitan by two different teams: Chris McNamara and Miles Smart as The Hare and Bob Porter and Martin Avidan as The Tortoise. The show is a creative and entertaining exploration of modern big-wall climbing in Yosemite. With stunning photos by Corey Rich, audio from National Public Radio contributor Jason Paur, and narration by Tom Frost, it puts you on the wall with the team. Whether setting a record ascent of just over seven hours on the *Zodiac* or enjoying (and suffering) four days of the normal pace on the *Nose*, anybody who has spent time climbing a wall can appreciate the stories that take place in "The Tortoise and the Hare." The evening was supported by many gear and climber organizations as well as other generous contributors. The event raised over \$2,000 to support the Section in its funding of climber activities and events.

On July 7-9, the Section attended its first International Climber Festival in Lander, WY. The weekend event was busy, fun, and hectic. The AAC had one of about 18 booths that were set up for the vendor program Friday. Sales of our canvas AAC shirts and fleece vests were slow, probably owing to the 90-degree heat. On Saturday morning, Mountain Hardware hosted the free breakfast at Wild Iris crags. The main event was short films from the Mountain Film Festival, which captivated the 500-plus audience at the high school auditorium. On Sunday morning, after the Trango pancake breakfast, Greg Sievers, the CRS chair, moderated a "climber issues forum." The panel included government agencies: the U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Fish and Game, and Bureau of Land Management; and climbers Jim McCarthy, a Past AAC President, and Rick Thompson from the Access Fund. The festival was a great success, in part due to the City of Lander's support. Our Section looks forward to attending next year.

GREG SIEVERS, *Section Chair*

AAC, North Central Section. The North Central Section is continuing to try to "get its feet" on the ground after having an open chair position for several years. The Section Web site, with its climbers' message board and announcements of upcoming events, has been popular. Because our climbing population is so scattered, we felt it necessary to host a place where trips can be arranged, belayers located, etc. The message board has certainly served that purpose. Also posted on the Web site were highlights from the Club's Annual Meeting in Denver.

There were two clean-ups at the Section's most popular climbing site, Taylors Falls Crag, just north of the Twin Cities. The first one in May, sponsored by a local climbing shop, drew about a dozen participants. Unfortunately, the second session in August, sponsored by the AAC, had poor weather and a poor turnout. We enjoy a good relationship with the administration at the State Park, and all seems calm at the moment. Our Minnesota climbing regulations are now in popular print and may be found in the current Midwest Climbing Guide. The goal for 2001 is to move our clean-up day to the Blue Mounds Crag in southeastern Minnesota.

SCOTT CHRISTENSEN, *Chairman*

AAC, New York Section. The new millennium began inauspiciously. Unseasonably warm weather in early January threatened to make our 15th Annual Winter Outing a total washout. Miraculously, a quick succession of winter storms changed all that, and by the end of January, mid-winter conditions returned, along with most of the classic ice routes in Keene Valley. As