

moon in October at Bridge Creek Campground outside Leavenworth, Washington.” We hope to do more joint events with [cascadeclimbers.com](http://cascadeclimbers.com) and other local climbing groups.

The major mountaineering issue this year was the proposed changes to the Mount Rainier National Park management plan. Lloyd Ahearn provided responses on behalf of the AAC with regard to both the proposed fee increases and to the changes to commercial climbing services. We are also monitoring a proposal for an underground science facility in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area that is currently under consideration.

Congratulations to member Erden Eruc for completing the first part of his self-propelled climbing odyssey by cycling to and climbing Denali and cycling back to Seattle (5,546 miles). The next stages involve rowing, first to South America to climb Aconcagua and then on across the Pacific. For more information see [www.around-n-over.org](http://www.around-n-over.org). For climbing exploits of other Section members see the expedition and first ascent notes in this Journal.

Lastly, the Section is pleased to have contributed \$1,000 this year to the AAJ and would like to thank Craig McKibben, Raymond Huey, and Carlton Swan for their share of that donation. Please visit our Web site at <http://cas.alpineclub.org>, and if you have questions about the Section contact me at [pdack1@attbi.com](mailto:pdack1@attbi.com).

PETER ACKROYD, *Chair*

**AAC, OREGON SECTION.** Our winter Section expedition was made to Smith Rock to construct an emergency rescue litter shelter. Jeff Alzner, Richard Bence, Bob McGown, Bob Spike, and others participated. The Section has plans for other litter shelters at Smith Rock. The first shelter has an Oregon Section AAC plaque dedicating the shelter to Mike Bearzi, who died climbing in Tibet. Mike’s family has assisted the Section.

This year our spring fundraiser was a slide show by Steve Boyer. He is a veteran of six Himalayan expeditions including a successful ascent of the south face of Annapurna. Steve is an accomplished speed climber, having set records on Mt. Hood. Steve is an MD who also holds a masters degree in glaciation. His program covered the highlights of his Himalayan career and he also discussed the major accident on Mt. Hood of May 30, 2002. Recently, Steve continued his glacier research with investigations of the glaciers on Mt. Hood with GPS positioning of the 12 glaciers on the mountain. He compared these present glacier positions with old Mazama photographs supplied by Mazama historian Jeff Thomas.

The Section supported the *Himalayan Bulletin*, Barbra Bower editor, and the Cooper Spur Coalition, a watchdog group on the development on Mt. Hood’s Cooper Spur.

Our winter program was a presentation on the traverse of the Southern Picketts by Wayne Wallace. Wayne gave an interesting program on his Cascade climbs of 20+ years, culminating in the traverse of the southern Pickett range with Colin Haley and Mark Bunker. Wayne is a dedicated alpinist who was recently awarded the Section’s Fred Becky award for his achievements in Cascade alpinism.

Longtime member, Vera Defoe, was recognized at the Mazama annual banquet for leading Mazama climbs for 37 continuous years through the age of 75. Earlier, the Explorer Scout troop sponsored by the Mazamas climbed a first ascent in British Columbia’s Coast Range, naming it Mount Defoe. Vera led several climbs for the Scouts in the Pacific Northwest. She continues to be active in conservation and access issues.

The efforts of Neale Creamer and the Friends of Silcox Hut were noteworthy. This fall

the friends along with Timberline Lodge installed a new snow tunnel on Silcox Hut for winter access to the 1933 WPA structure at 7,000 feet on Mt. Hood. This is an excellent base camp for an emergency south side rescue location. Section member Jeff Sheets, of the Friends of Silcox Hut, is also on the safety committee for *Accidents in North American Mountaineering*. Jeff and Bob Speik from Bend, Oregon, promptly reported several notable accidents.

June Hackett (Bill Hackett's widow) and Ric Conrad published Bill's climbing biography including exploits with the 10th Mountain Division and the 1958 K2 expedition. Bill was a longtime Section member and dedicated climber. The book is well laid out as a historical piece with comments by Charlie Shimanski, Dee Molenaar, and Bradford Washburn. The book covers Bill's expedition notes and will be an excellent reference document.

In August, Bob McGown and Steve Holman, President of the Oregon Science Teacher's Association, acted as climbing team support for the four-day experiment for NIAC (NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts) at the Skylight Cave system in Sisters, Oregon. Steve, an alpinist, was so enthused by the success of the CEMSS II biosphere that he plans to help his advanced biology students build several biospheres in the coming year.

The Section's climbing librarian Bob Lockerby created a 47- page index to the *American Alpine Journal* from 1997 to date.

BOB MCGOWN, *Chairman*

AAC, SIERRA NEVADA SECTION. The year started with a sometimes-annual Markleeville ski trip. A few hardy souls were out to enjoy the "pow" and soak tired, weary limbs in, where else, but Grover Hot Springs. More people should attend this trip.

We held our spring meeting at John Hart's home in Marin County. Catered food, wine, and beer warmed up a crowd of about 40 people. Greg Couch gave an outrageous slideshow about the first winter ascent of Cerro Torre, in 1999, with three Swiss partners with whom he could barely converse. Our stomachs got pumped from laughing at Greg's epic battles with bad weather, cabin fever, and ... SUPERMICE! Thanks to Greg for sharing this amazing adventure with us and to John for opening his home to us.

In September Royal Robbins hosted his now annual Pinecrest gala with climbing at the Gianelli Edges. Thanks to Royal and Liz for their help in making this our most popular outing. Some 40-50 people attended over the course of the weekend.

Our fall meeting was held at Greg Murphy's house in the hills of Montclair. Some new energetic faces were on hand to liven things up. Climbing tales were told, some true and some embellished by Greg's home brew. Tommy Caldwell and Beth Rodden were on hand to present their "First Couple of Rock," a video of the couple's exploits and misadventures together. In the film the two talk candidly about dating on El Capitan, their epic in Kyrgyzstan, and the pressure of being professional climbers. It was riveting, touching, and funny. Our thanks to them and to Greg and Annie for their hospitality.

In December we held our annual meeting at Berkeley Iron Works. Shawn Chartrand, our Section's events coordinator, arranged for some awesome food that everybody thoroughly enjoyed. We actually had too much; where were the rest of you? Mark Wilford was flown in from Colorado to be our keynote speaker. He delivered in a huge way, as he described the epic tale of the first ascent of Yamandaka in the Indian Karakoram. When he described rappelling off an anchor of slings held in place by rocks stacked on top, the crowd seemed to shiver collectively.