

Our hats off to Mark and his partner, AAC President Mark Richey, for this daring ascent made in uncompromising style.

This meeting also marked the end of my tenure as Section Chair. The torch was passed to Ellen Latham of Grass Valley. I had served for three years and had a great time. Thanks to all who helped make it so great and such fun. Let's get out and climb!

STEVE SCHNEIDER, *Chair*

AAC, NORTHERN ROCKIES SECTION. As an AAC representative, a board member of the Boise Climbers Alliance, and an Idaho local, Doug Colwell participated as a member of the Climbing Management Plan (CMP) for Castle Rocks State Park, which adjoins the City of Rocks National Preserve. Over two days the Climbing Management Team developed the CMP, which set forth the rules, recommendations, and guidelines surrounding new route development at Castle Rocks State Park upon opening in May 2003. One provision of the CMP created a lottery whereby 25 people were selected to enter the Park prior to its opening and to establish new routes. The Access Fund facilitated this meeting, and it was a wonderful example of how governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individual climbers can work together for the overall benefit of the climbing community and the public at large. Several of our members were lottery winners, and during two weekends in mid-May helped establish over 40 new routes, which went in with minimal problems or conflicts, despite what the trade rags indicated.

In August, during the official opening of the Park, the AAC and the Access Fund presented Wallace Keck, director of Castle Rocks State Park, with a joint award for his willingness to work with climbers in developing the CMP. Others attending the ceremony were Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Senator Larry Craig, Rick Colligon, Director of Idaho Parks and Recreation, as well as National Park Service officials. This was a good opportunity to recognize the mutual cooperation of the groups involved.

In April the Boise Chapter of the Northern Rockies Section cosponsored a fund raising slide show by our member Mike Libeck with the Boise Climbers Alliance. Brian Wright has taken over as President of the Boise Chapter from longtime leader Susan Bernatus.

The Section hosted its first event in Salt Lake City with 150+ people attending. Black Diamond graciously sponsored Will Gadd as the speaker. The meeting identified several Salt Lake members interested in increasing the AAC presence in the Wasatch Valley. Mark Holbrook agreed to serve as the Section's Salt Lake City "President." Mark hosted a barbecue for members most desirous of energizing the group and acting on potential issues and projects.

Our fourth "almost annual" Fall Moondance occurred September 6-7 at City of Rocks, with over 45 people reserving space at the group campground, almost double last year's attendance.

DOUG COLWELL, *Chair*

AAC, CENTRAL ROCKIES SECTION. On February 14-17 the Fifth Annual Cody Ice Festival was held in the Shoshone River Valley southwest of Cody, Wyoming. CRS Chair Greg Sievers and AAC Board Member Charlie Mace were on hand to support the popular activity. The Section donated several AAC fleece embroidered jackets for the auction and supplied free AAC mugs to all attendees. This small, quaint event offers everyone a chance to mingle and socialize in the

rustic setting of the DDX Ranch. The ice climbing in the area offers over 100 routes, few with grades less than WI3+. For those unfamiliar with the area, it is a world-class destination for ice climbing and a must for your resume. However, be prepared to hike, spend long, full days out, and be self sufficient and exceedingly safe. Treat it like an alpine adventure where your cell phone won't work.

Greg Sievers continued a diligent review of the proposed relocation of the Twin Owls parking lot at the popular Lumpy Ridge climbing area in Estes Park, Colorado. Unfortunately a challenge to the legal access through the MacGregor Ranch, which the public has used for over 40 years, failed. Relocation of the public access will add 1.5 miles to the climber's day if the destination were the "Book" or "Sundance" areas on Lumpy. This has been a 20-year process for the National Park Service, which included three environmental assessments, much public debate, and negative commentary. We will likely see the end of an era in the near future.

The 2003 Lumpy Trails Day on Lumpy Ridge was a commanding success! This is the third year that the AAC has hosted climbers, Club members, locals, and National Park Service employees to collaborate and improve the climber access trails to these highly popular and photogenic rock climbing crags. The narrow single-track access trails leading to the each of the magnificent crags are eroded by summer storms and increasing use. About 35 people showed up on October 18. Over 500 vertical feet of the rugged trail to Batman Rock was given a "complete" face lift, and at the Little Twin Owls bouldering area, 16 additional water bars were placed. The AAC provided donuts in the morning and full lunches delivered to the trail workers in the field. All volunteers received goodies from corporate sponsors, and a raffle was held that included outdoor gear donated by the AAC. Thanks to the vision of the Access Fund and their Adopt-A-Crag program, users and climbers are turning out in their own neighborhoods nationwide to repair trails at climbing crags like Lumpy Ridge.

The Section responded to a recent Environmental Assessment in Rocky Mountain National Park regarding the addition of paved, improved bus stops along the Bear Lake Road. While improvement for visitors is needed, we support vehicular access by the public in the years to come, despite shuttle bus improvement and increased use. With alpinists and climbers often starting their treks in the wee hours of the morning, we feel it is imperative for the NPS to maintain public vehicular access. The Section also responded to Environmental Assessments at Indian Creek and Fisher Towers recreation areas, where the BLM is developing a use plan.

GREG SIEVERS, *Chair*

AAC, NEW YORK SECTION. The New York Section, with membership now exceeding 700 in the Tri-State Area, tries to appeal to a broad cross section of members with a variety of outdoor climbing and indoor social events.

Activities invariably commence in late January with our Annual Adirondack Winter Outing, now entering its second decade. The winter of 2002-03 will be long remembered here in the East as one of the coldest and snowiest on record. As a result a capacity gathering of around 35 members and guests, both old and new members, were on hand to ice climb, snowshoe, and ski in almost ideal conditions in Keene, New York. For many, the chance to be with friends in an isolated, beautiful environment sharing intense experiences followed by a well-deserved cocktail hour and dinner makes it an annual ritual not to be missed. It also provides the