

in the South Fork Valley (Shoshone River basin). Many new and existing ice routes are having the rappel descents bolted because of the gathering V-thread waste in the drainages and rapid deterioration of cordage. Aaron Mulkey is the driving force in locating and climbing many of the new waterfalls. He and friends have also graciously installed many of the rappel stations. For current conditions, visit his Web site www.coldfear.com.

While our Section was the primary financial sponsor of the Cody Festival, thanks for support are also due to Mammut (Schoeller garments, gear, and free hats), Magiclinc.com, MSR, Trango, New Belgian Brewery, and Red Bull. Don Foote, the event organizer, did a great job keeping the happy crowd focused during the programs and touting the AAC and other sponsors. The dry-tool pull-up contest was a hit, and the "well-past-40" men took overall honors by a good margin. Bison Willy's Bunkhouse (www.bisonwillys.com), the adjacent AAC system hut, was full all weekend. Our thanks to Kenny Gasch for his undying support and partnering with the AAC for this fine wilderness facility. Nothing beats a hot shower and clothes dryer after a long, hard day of climbing in sloppy ice conditions.

The fourth annual Lumpy Trails Day held October 23 at Lumpy Ridge, was an amazing success, with nearly 60 volunteers attending. The Club hosted Front Range climbers, Club members, locals, and Rocky Mountain National Park employees to improve climber access trails to one of the country's most popular and photogenic rock climbing areas. This year we were joined by nine students from the Adams County School climbing team and their coaches. The Park provided 10 NPS trail crew employees to guide the group to the Twin Owls Rock access trail. The group gave a "face lift" to over 400 vertical feet of extremely rugged mountainous trail. Over 40 wood water bars were installed to help check runoff, control erosion, and act as stairs. Dozens of huge stones were moved to build new steps and armor against further erosion.

GREG SIEVERS, *Chair*

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION. The North Central Section has about 165 members spread out over an area of roughly 600 miles x 600 miles. The membership has two pockets, one in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and the other 400 miles away in Omaha, Nebraska. The Omaha group has a spring membership drive with dinner and slide show. The group in the Twin Cities has two service related projects that also include membership drives. The first of these was on June 26 at the Taylor's Falls crag, about 50 miles north of St. Paul. It was the annual AAC clean-up day, which focused on the Wisconsin side of this popular climbing spot. Technically speaking this side is not within our Section boundary, as it is across the St. Croix River that separates Minnesota from Wisconsin. It is nevertheless an integral part of the destination. A small but dedicated group of seven members showed up for early morning climbing, afternoon clean up, and an early evening barbeque. On August 7-8 we had a similar clean-up day at Blue Mounds State Park in southwestern Minnesota. Blue Mounds is about 250 miles from the Twin Cities and is roughly the geographic center of our Section. The day was similar to that at Taylor's Falls, with 12 people in attendance for climbing, clean up, and the barbeque.

The North Central Section Web site is not presently operational, and this Chair is eagerly seeking a webmaster.

SCOTT CHRISTENSEN, *Chair*