

CLUB ACTIVITIES

EDITED BY FREDERICK O. JOHNSON

Alaska Section. The Alaska Section purchased the Snowbird Hut, a dome-shaped structure built on stilts on the moraine above the Snowbird Glacier in the Talkeetna Mountains. It is important as one of two shelters on the “Bomber” traverse, linking several alpine glaciers on both a summer and winter three-day tour through the Talkeetnas. Use of the hut is not restricted to Club members, but is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Formerly a private hut, the Section purchased it to ensure public access and accommodations.

The monthly public slideshows were a great success, bringing members of the public together to give them a taste of the alpine environment and the efforts of the AAC. Again, British Petroleum donated their Green Energy Center in Anchorage as a free venue. Among the participants this year were: Kristen Kramer, who recently returned from Patagonia; she also showed slides of the women’s ski trip on Denali last spring. Clint Helander gave an account of his recent trip to the Revelation Mountains. Seldom visited and almost completely unknown, the Revelations are at the southwestern-most part of the Alaska Range. Clint and his team completed one first ascent and threw the rest of their efforts at another unclimbed peak. The trip was made possible by an AAC Mountain Fellowship grant. Clint profiled not only his climb, but also the history and untapped potential of one of Alaska’s most unexplored mountain ranges. Colin Haley presented a show on the Torre Traverse (VI 5.11 A1 MI6) in Argentinian Patagonia. Joe Stock told stories from his recent full-length ski traverse of the Tordrillo Mountains, which are easily seen from Anchorage on a clear day. Joe, Andrew Wexler, and Dylan Taylor’s expedition avoided the well-publicized helicopters and completed the 100-mile trip in nine days from the base of Mt. Spurr to the confluence of the Happy and Skwentna Rivers. Along the way they found huge icefalls, technical descents, and steep powder off the summits of Spurr, Torbert, Talachulitna, and Gerdine. Proceeds from these slideshows benefited the Alaska Section, which will use the money to renovate and rebuild the Snowbird Hut. Sponsors for these events included the Bear Tooth Theater Pub, Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking, Black Diamond, the American Alpine Club, British Petroleum, and Conoco Phillips.

Jay Rowe, over the past two summers, has done two separate first ascents of multi-pitch rock climbs off the Coffee Glacier on the east side of the Moose’s Tooth. He showed slides of the first ascent of the South Buttress of Sugar Tooth (20 pitches, 5.10) and of Coffee Spire (11 pitches, 5.11).

HARRY HUNT, *Chair*

Cascade Section. We had an active year in the Cascade Section starting off in January with our annual dinner at the Red Hook Brewery, where we were treated to several excellent presentations. Steve Swenson—then-vice president of the American Alpine Club and now president—presented “The Road Ahead: New Initiatives to Grow and Strengthen the American Alpine

Club.” Jessica Lundin and Erin Whorton, recipients of the AAC McNeill/Nott Award, showed “Arctic Adventures: Two New Routes in Greenland.” Chad Kellogg, recipient of the AAC McNeill/Nott Award, treated us to “Qionglai Mountains: Two First Ascents in Sichuan China.”

In March our very own Jim Henriot, president of the AAC from 1977–1979, received the prestigious Angelo Heilprin Citation, which was established in 1976 and is awarded annually to an individual who has shown exemplary service to the Club. Jim is also the seventh American to climb Aconcagua and led the first American post-war expedition to Mt. Elbrus.

In April we had a meeting at the Wilde Irish Rover Pub and were treated to a presentation by Colin Haley, recipient of the AAC Robert Hicks Bates Award, titled “Torre Traverse: A Four-Day Ridge Traverse of Cerro Standhardt, Punta Herron, Torre Egger, and Cerro Torre.”

Also in April the Section hosted a dinner in Ashford with the National Park Service and several leading guiding companies to discuss the progress and efforts to redevelop Camp Muir on Mt. Rainier.

In May the Cascade Section co-hosted an event in Seattle where Royal Robbins, one of the world’s greatest adventurers, shared his incredible climbs in the Washington area and how they impacted his legendary career as a climber. Attendees also had a chance to view the film, *The West Face*, written and narrated by Barry Corbet and featuring Royal Robbin’s and Yvon Chouinard’s ascent of the west face of Sentinel Rock in Yosemite National Park.

On National Trails Day in June, Section volunteers turned out to repair trails and structures in Mt. Rainier National Park that had sustained enormous damage in the previous fall’s floods.

In December the Section co-hosted an ice-fest at Stone Gardens welcoming climbers for an evening of dry tooling and competitions for best male and female dry-toolers. In addition, there was a demo area where attendees could try out equipment from different climbing companies. Finally, the evening concluded with a slideshow by Dylan Johnson and Chad Kellogg on their first ascent of the southwest ridge on Mt. Siguniang.

Looking ahead, we will continue to push forward on installing rescue litters at popular climbing crags in Washington and assist in the Camp Muir Redevelopment Project. Volunteers are always welcome!

ALFRED “AL” SCHUMER, *Chair, Section Leadership Committee*

Oregon Section. The AAC was represented at the annual Smith Rock Detour, a two-day event at the end of September on private property adjacent to Smith Rock State Park. Action at the AAC booth included the screening of the AAC trailer video, answering Smith Rock Detour participants’ questions about the AAC and signing up new members.

Items for the upcoming year are service projects, a climbing rendezvous, an annual dinner, appointment of ambassadors, and AAC representation at several area events.

MIKE VOLK, *Chair*

Sierra Nevada Section. The Sierra Nevada Section enjoyed an active 2008 with our members climbing, reaching out to the climbing community, and working to protect the places we climb. We hosted our traditional “Climb-munity” gatherings for both our members and other climbers: January: Ice climbing based from Lost Trail Lodge in Coldstream Canyon near Truck-