

CLUB ACTIVITIES

EDITED BY FREDERICK O. JOHNSON

ALASKA SECTION. The Alaska Section has been moving forward with a program to replace the aging Snowbird Hut in the Talkeetna Mountains near Hatcher Pass. Built over 30 years ago, the hut sits on a wood foundation that has become unstable due to its age and the settling of the moraine it rests on. The north side of the dome-shaped structure has been damaged by heavy snow loads over the years. Rim Architects of Anchorage developed the new hut design, preserving the style of the small wilderness hut, yet offering a much more efficient and usable space. The new structure will have an 18' x 18' floor plan and will comfortably sleep six people. It will be located slightly above the old hut and will command a better view of the glacier and surrounding summits. Logistics for constructing the new hut will require airlifting materials into the glacier. Construction of the hut is planned for 2010 by a volunteer crew under the supervision of Harry Hunt and former AAC treasurer Charlie Sassara. The Bear Tooth Theater Pub hosted a successful fundraiser for the hut, with a showing of the video *Flakes*, featuring Anchorage telemark champion, Paige Brady, to a sellout crowd.

The monthly public slideshows were a great success, bringing Club members and the public together at the BP Green Energy Center in Anchorage. Among the presentations were: Harry Hunt's ascents of Shaken Not Stirred on the Moose's Tooth and other climbs; Ryan Hokanson's report on climbing with Sam Johnson in the Arrigetch Peaks of Alaska; Dave Hart's review of his three most recent expeditions in the Wrangell/St. Elias and Kluane National Parks; and Kelsey Gray's epic road trip with friends driving 18,000 miles across North America and climbing over 180 routes in 25 states, 3 Canadian Provinces and Mexico.

The Alaska Section was a sponsor of Anchorage's 1st Annual Alaska Ice Climbing Festival held from March 6-8 at Hunter Creek. The event included clinics, a competition, food, beverages, slideshows, live music, and an awards ceremony. Prizes and awards were donated by Black Diamond, Petzl, Mountain Hardwear, Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking, Ice Holdz, and others.

HARRY HUNT, *Chair*

SIERRA NEVADA SECTION. Dave Riggs, Section Chair since 2006, transitioned to the AAC Board of Directors and deserves many thanks for his fine leadership these past years.

The Section again hosted its popular annual "Climb-munity" gatherings, with the first being the January ice-climbing weekend in Cold Stream Canyon near Truckee. The Sierra summer climbing season started in June with the Donner Summit Climb-munity, which was followed by the Tuolumne Meadows Climb-munity in August. Both these events afforded our members not only great rock climbing, but also great camaraderie with group camping, barbecues, parties and raffles.

In September Royal and Liz Robbins and Tom Frost hosted their final Pinecrest Climb-In. This popular gathering of members and friends enjoyed cragging at Gianelli Edges and a

wonderful party at the Robbins' cabin. The Section intends to carry on this fine tradition with Royal, Liz, and Tom as our guests.

Throughout the year the Section reached out to the climbing community and promoted the AAC. In April Section members represented the AAC at the Rockpile Rendezvous at Pinnacles National Monument. This event celebrated the 70-year history of climbing at the Pinnacles and recognized the conservation and stewardship ethics that climbers have practiced there during that time. Also, the Section continued to sponsor the year-round climbers' coffee held every Sunday morning in Yosemite with the climbing rangers, where members interact with other climbers and spread the good word about the AAC. Further, AAC Yosemite Committee Chair Linda McMillan continued to lead the Saturday evening slideshow series in Yosemite as part of the climbers' interpretive program, which generates further goodwill and exposure for the AAC.

As for conservation activities, in September our members represented the AAC at the Yosemite Facelift clean-up week organized by the Yosemite Climbers Association. In conjunction with the Access Fund, the Section underwrote commemorative Facelift bandanas that were given away to all the Facelift volunteers. In October the Section coordinated with the Friends Of The Inyo and the Access Fund to organize the Fall High Ball in Bishop to raise funds for a solution to the human waste management issue that exists in the nearby bouldering areas. The weekend included a volunteer trail restoration/clean-up workday and a slideshow by Section member Doug Robinson. The event raised almost \$5,000.

The year ended with our Holiday Dinner, highlighted by AAC Treasurer/Board Member Jack Tackle, who presented his outstanding slideshow on "Alaska Alpine Style," which attracted a record turnout. At the dinner special recognition was given to those members who have provided valuable leadership and support to the Section and to the entire AAC over the years.

TOM BURCH, *Chair*

FRONT RANGE SECTION. As a result of the AAC Sections Committee's work, the Central Rockies Section was divided into smaller, more locally focused sections. One of them is the Front Range Section, composed of the eastern half of Colorado and the southeastern corner of Wyoming. During this reorganization the previous Central Rockies Chair, Majka Burhardt, decided it was a good time to focus on other ventures, and I took on the role of Chair for the Front Range Section.

Due to the reorganization the Section's primary event in 2009 was the Ninth Annual Lumpy Trails Day, managed by longtime volunteer and previous Section Chair, Greg Sievers. In partnership with the Macgregor Ranch, the Access Fund, the AAC, and Rocky Mountain National Park, 45 volunteers showed up for a day of trail work on the Sundance trail in the Black Canyon Falls area at the west end of Lumpy Ridge. We were happy to have a beautiful fall day to work. After fantastic breakfast support from several Estes Park establishments, the NPS trail crew quickly organized their teams to tackle the severely eroded trail leading to the rock face. In all, 51 wood water bars and 87 rock steps were constructed. We wrapped up the seven-hour day with great raffle prizes from local and regional sponsors. It was a pleasant surprise to see each and every attendee receive gifts. Everyone involved was very pleased with the noticeable progress from the day.

CHRIS PRUCHNIC, *Chair*